

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 MCE-00 /059 W
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R 211050Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8243
INFO SECDEF WASHDC/ISA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
HQ USAF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3872

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU
SUBJECT: PEACE PILLAR PROGRAM

1. AS DEPT AWARE SUDANESE AIR FORCE HAS BEEN UNHAPPY WITH RECENT PERFORMANCE C-130S, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF RADAR MALFUNCTIONS. SOME OTHER PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN WHICH LOCKHEED REPS HERE HAVE BEEN ABLE OVERCOME AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. MEANWHILE WE NOTE EGYPTIAN C-130S HAVE ALSO BEEN HAVING SOME MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL PROBLEMS (USDAO CAIRO 151323Z AUG 78; CAIRO 18941). FAIR TO ASSUME SUDANESE AND EGYPTIANS COMPARE NOTES ON C-130 PERFORMANCE.

2. IN MEETING WITH NEW ARMED FORCES COS LT. GEN ABD-EL-MAJID HAMID KHALIL AUGUST 19, I ASKED ABOUT C-130 PROBLEMS. MAJID INDICATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER FULLY WITH PPM MAJOR DANSBY AS WELL AS WITH DATT AND HE ASSUMED WE WERE DOING OUR BEST TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS. HE WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO STRESS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PEACE PILLAR PROGRAM AS FIRST MAJOR USG-SUDANGOV COOPERATION PROGRAM TO GET UNDERWAY SINCE POLITICAL RELATIONS WERE NORMALIZED. HE SAID THAT SUDANESE OFFICIALS WERE WATCHING PROGRAM CLOSELY AS EXAMPLE OF HOW USG
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PERFORMS. IN ADDITION, HE EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT AT PROBLEMS C-130 AIRCRAFT HAD RUN INTO HERE. CITING C-130S WELL EARNED REPUTATION FOR DEPENDABILITY WORLDWIDE, HE SAID HE COULD NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SUDANESE C-130S HAD HAD SO MUCH TROUBLE.

3. COMMENT: WE ASSURED MAJID WE WERE WORKING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS.

I ALSO NOTED SEVERE ENVIRONMENT OF SUDAN. FRANKLY, WE ALSO HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT C-130S HAVE HAD SO MUCH TROUBLE HERE. QUITE APART FROM HIGH POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE SUDANESE ATTACH TO PEACE PILLAR PROGRAM, IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND VITAL FUNCTION THESE PLANES PLAY HERE. AT TIME OF URGENT REQUIREMENTS FOLLOWING FLOODS AND OTHER DISASTERS, WHEN ALL SIX PLANES URGENTLY NEEDED, THREE OR FOUR OF THEM AT ANY GIVEN TIME ARE NOT RPT NOT ABLE FLY. SO, FROM SUDANESE POINT OF VIEW, ONE CAN APPRECIATE THEIR FRUSTRATIONS.

4. NOW THAT PROBLEMS ARE KNOWN, BELIEVE PPM AND LOCKHEED REPS HERE AS WELL AS THEIR SUPPORT STAFF IN U.S. ARE WORKING HARD TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, DEPT SHOULD BE AWARE OF STRONG FEELINGS AMONG SUDANESE ON C-130 ISSUES AND ASSURE ITSELF THAT ALL ELEMENTS USG AS WELL AS LOCKHEED MOVING RAPIDLY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AND TO DEGREE POSSIBLE MAKE SURE THEY DO NOT RECUR. BOGOSIAN

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